

March 10, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, we distributed a map of the City of Omaha school district outlined in black the boundaries, you can follow the black line. The red area is in the city school district. The other areas some indicated by diagonal lines, some by cross-patch work, indicates that property in the City of Omaha that is not within the City of Omaha school district. Now, this amendment sort of allows Omaha to solve this problem themselves right from the start. I have been accused here of being a racist, I've been accused of not trying to support the City of Omaha, but it appears that within the City of Omaha itself that there is quite a bit of land, quite a bit of property, quite a bit of valuation that is not, or will not contribute in the support of supporting this court order to integration. I think that this amendment focuses that a big step, a giant step can be made within the City of Omaha in solving this problem themselves and broadening their tax base and getting everybody within the city limits to approach this problem on an equal basis and I would urge you to strongly support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I don't have the amendment before me so if I state anything that might not be correct, I stand to be corrected. But, I think that I understand the amendment to say, that all of the land within the corporate limits of the City of Omaha would be available for taxing purposes to provide the money to pay for the problems that everybody says exists in Omaha with reference to the busing. Pursuant to a court order. Then, there would be an opportunity for a vote by the people to determine whether they think that everybody within the city ought to help pay the cost. Now, to me I think that the out-come of such a vote is a foregone conclusion. The people who currently have to pay these taxes would certainly be in favor of everybody paying these taxes. Since there is one city council that presides over the entire corporate area of Omaha, logically there should be one school taxing power that would deal with the entire corporate, all of the land within the corporate limits of Omaha. When you begin to make artificial distinctions and divisions within a city, remember this amendment is not talking about land in the county or outside of Omaha but just within Omaha. When you make those artificial distinctions you bring about division. So, I'm going to listen to arguments against everybody in Omaha helping to pay the cost. If the members from the Omaha delegation can come before the legislature and say that the state, people who live no where close to Omaha ought to pay some of the bill, then certainly you ought to let everybody in Omaha assume part of the burden first. I am telling Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Lewis and all of those who have been telling us about how these bills and these amendments are designed to help children, but I think they are to get school boards off the hook, if they will vote for this provision right here, then I'll vote for the state to assist. You can't require an individual to do more than he has the power or capabilities to do. You can require a city or governmental subdivision to do more than it is capable of doing. But, as they always used to tell me when I was in Sunday School